PRELIMINARY MATTER CONCERNING RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 2, 2008, Applicants submit herewith a correction to their response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2008, which they filed on August 25, 2008. In the present corrected response, Applicants have removed text from all claims designated as "cancelled." Applicants have also made corrections to the first paragraph of the "REMARKS" section as filed on August 25, 2008. The corrections properly identify which claims are being cancelled in the present corrected response, and which claims remain pending. Except for the removal of the text of the cancelled claims and the correction of the first paragraph of the "REMARKS" section, and the signature date on this paper, all other text of the present corrected response remains identical to that filed on August 25, 2008.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 25, 2008, claims 2-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Ress et al. (US Patent No. 6,885,658). With this present Response, Applicants have cancelled without prejudice claims 7, 13 and 16. Applicants have also incorporated the limitation of dependent claim 3 into base claim 2, and have correspondingly cancelled claim 3. Therefore, claims 2, 4-6, 8-2, 14, and 15 are presently pending.

Applicants respectively traverse the presently pending rejections. After a careful review of the Office Action, the cited references, and Applicants proposed claim amendments, Applicants respectively request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 2-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Ress et

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al. (US Patent No. 6,885,658) ("Ress 658"). Applicants respectively traverse.

A. *Applicants Presently Claimed Invention*

This present invention relates to the interworking of computer networks. Specifically, the invention relates to a proxy that groups Media Gateways.

As Applicants explain, because Media Gateway Controller's ("MGC's") only view of a MG is via the standard interface, it has no visibility into how the actual media resources are configured behind the interface in order to support the capabilities required by the interface. The media resources may be part of an integrated hardware platform (e.g., DSPs, controlling processors, and buses), or alternatively, a collection of distinct platforms, coordinated and managed by software which presents the standard MG interface to the MGC.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide a virtual Media Gateway (MG) composed of multiple standalone media gateways. It would also be desirable to allow an outside entity, for example, a Media Gateway Controller (MGC), to transmit messages to a virtual Media Gateway and receive messages from a virtual Media Gateway and allow the outside entity to view the virtual Media Gateway as a single Media Gateway.

Applicants' presently claimed invention is generally directed to this need. One aspect of the presently claimed invention relates to a virtual Media Gateway (MG) including multiple standalone media gateways. The virtual Media Gateway is a grouping, which contains multiple individual Media Gateways. Specifically, the invention relates to a Media Gateway proxy that allows an outside entity, for example, a Media Gateway Controller (MGC), to transmit messages to a virtual Media Gateway and receive messages from a virtual Media Gateway. The Media Gateway proxy allows the outside entity to view the virtual Media Gateway as a single Media Gateway.

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Applicants presently pending independent claims are generally directed to such a virtual Media Gateway. For example, presently pending revised independent claim 2 expressly recites a device that logically groups a first and a second Media Gateway. The device comprises a first receiving means for receiving a MGC message and a memory means for storing the MGC message, the MGC message corresponding to an address of either one of the two Media Gateways. The device further comprises a locating means for locating in the memory means the address of either one of said two Media Gateways. A second receiving means for receiving the address of the Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address. The remaining independent claims contain similar limitations.

B. *Ress 658 Does Not Anticipate Applicants' Presently Pending Claims*

Ress 658 does not anticipate Applicants' presently pending claims. For example, Ress is generally directed to a method and an apparatus for interworking between internet protocol (IP) telephone protocols that includes a call server. The call server includes a first protocol agent for communicating with a first protocol device according to a first protocol. A second protocol agent communicates with a second protocol device according to a second protocol. An interworking agent provides functions usable by the first and second protocol agents to communicate with each other according to a fifth protocol. The third protocol is a superset of function provided by the first and second protocols. Ress 658, Abstract.

Ress does not teach or suggest Applicants device that logically groups a first and a second Media Gateway including a second receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address. For example, the presently pending Office Action states that Ress 658, at Col. 4, lines 43-65, teaches Applicants' "a second receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using

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said address." Applicants respectively traverse.

At Col. 4, lines 43-65, Tess 658 describes a call server that includes MGC and GK functions. Tess 658 describes how these various entities communicate with call server 300. For example, Tess 658 explains that call server 300 includes a MGC function and a GK function 303. MGs and SGs recognize call server 300 as an MGC. In order for MGs 304 and 306 to recognize call server 300 as an MGC, MGC function 302 in call server 300 is adapted to communicate with MGs 304 and 306 using MGCP. Similarly, in order for SG 308 to recognize call server 300 as an MGC, MGC function 302 in call server communicates with SG 308 using a call signaling protocol. There is simply no mention of "a second receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address."

To anticipate a claim, "each and every element set forth in the claim [must be] found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single . . . reference." *Vergall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2f 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (M.P.E.P. Section 2131). Consequently, since Tess 658 does not teach or suggest ""a second receiving means for receiving said address of said Media Gateway, and forming a message using said address," Tess 658 does not to teach every element of the claimed invention and, therefore does not anticipate Applicant's presently pending Independent Claims.

II. SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above, the present application is in condition for allowance and solicit action to that end.

If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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